ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control system for operating and integrating automated applications in a small building environment. The control system includes a plurality of application controllers that control the operation of various automated applications, such as HVAC, lighting, access control and security. The control system further includes a local control interface that integrates and coordinates/controls operation of the various application controllers. The local control interface is preprogrammed with profiles for each of the different types of application controllers designed to operate with the system, but also is able to acquire new profiles from new or custom application controllers that are unknown to the local control interface at the time of installation. The profiles include control variable definitions for each of the control variables supported by the corresponding application controller. This information permits self-configuration of the application controllers. The control interface and application controllers communicate with explicit messages using explicit addressing. The structure of the explicit messages is preferably preprogrammed into the control interface and the application controllers.

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